

John Smith ("Old Jack Smith")

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Yet another of the district's very oldest identities has passed away in the person of Mr John Smith, better and more familiarly known as "Old Jack Smith."

Deceased was over 80 years of age and was a resident of Rushworth for over 50 years. He was born in County Armagh, Ireland, and arrived in Tasmania per the North Britton in the early days. Some time afterwards he came to Victoria and in 1855 kept a hotel on the diggings at Bendigo.

He had married in Tasmania, and, together with his wife, came on to Rushworth from Bendigo and has resided here ever since. There were some who maintained that deceased did not know his correct age, and this is quite probable, for when he kept the hotel in 1855 he was then known as "Old Jack Smith."

He was of a quiet, inoffensive nature and was held in high respect. His family comprised two sons and two daughters, all of whom married, and at the time of his death he had 28 grandchildren and 22 great-grand-children.

The funeral took place on Monday and was largely attended. The Rev. J. R. Walker officiated at the grave.